

APPLICANT'S NOTES

The Annex shows the differences between claims 20-34 on one hand and claims 35 to 48 on the other (deletions are marked in red and additions in blue - while the renumbering is not shown). In order to facilitate the examination you may find below a list indicating the relevance between the newly filed claims and the claims, which are canceled with the request filed herewith.

- Claim 35 corresponds to claim 20 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.
- Claim 36 corresponds to claim 22 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 37 corresponds to claim 23 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 38 corresponds to claim 24 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.
- Claim 39 corresponds to claim 25 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.
- Claim 40 corresponds to claim 26 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 41 corresponds to claim 27 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.
- Claim 42 corresponds to claim 28 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 43 corresponds to claim 29 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 44 corresponds to claim 30 amended to make it dependent from claim 35.
- Claim 45 corresponds to claim 31 amended to make it dependent from claims 35 to 44.
- Claim 46 corresponds to claim 32 amended to make it dependent from claim 35 to 44.
- Claim 47 corresponds to claim 33 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.
- Claim 48 corresponds to claim 34 amended to overcome the objections raised by the examiner.

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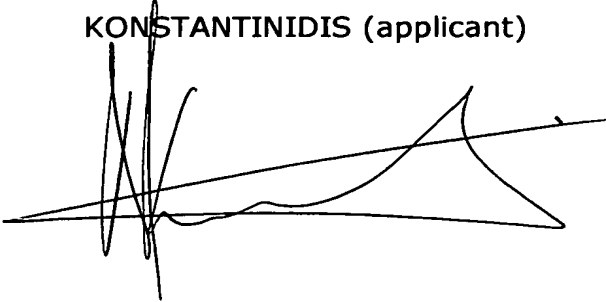
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applicant is ready to take the necessary steps in order to bring the application in conformity with the requirements of the US legislation.

Finally I would like to let you know, that if in your opinion an interview is considered helpful I am prepared to come to the USTPO to discuss my application.

Best Regards

KONSTANTINIDIS (applicant)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KONSTANTINIDIS', written over a horizontal line.

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Claim Objection - Multiple dependent claims

The newly filed claim 39 is cast in a way to overcome the objection raised against claim 25.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §112

It is believed that the newly filed claims 35, 38, 39, 41, 47, 48 overcome the objections raised under 35 USC §112 against claims 20, 24, 25, 27, 33, 34 respectively.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §102(b)

The wording of claims 35, 47 and 48 further clarify that the stirrup is made of a rod having a continuous cross-section. Thus there is no doubt that the stirrup according to the invention differs from that of EP-A-0 152 397, because the combined structure of figures 4, 5 and 7 to 10 of the EP document is constructed by laterally inserting one simple stirrup into another.

Therefore the subject-matter of independent claims 35, 47 and 48 is new and involves an inventive-step.

The dependent claims 36 to 46 also meet the patentability requirements as they are dependent from claim 35.

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ANNEX

CLAIMS

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- 5
20. Stirrup for reinforcing load bearing elements having main reinforcement rods, [which] whereby the stirrup comprises a plurality of consecutive windings **(7a, 7b)** disposed along the longitudinal direction of the stirrup and [has] is made of a rod with a continuous cross-section, so that the stirrup has a spiral form, and whereby the windings of the stirrup form a plurality of discrete cages **(5a, 5b)** for housing the main reinforcement rods **(1a, 1b)** of the load bearing element.
- 10
21. [Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup comprises n almost cylindrically-shaped cages, where n is an integer greater or equal to 2, and whereby the projections of each n-th winding provided along a portion at least of the length of the stirrup, on a transverse plane coincide.]
- 15
22. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup comprises two cages to house the main reinforcement rods of the load bearing element.
23. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup comprises at least four cages **(5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)** to house the main reinforcement rods of the load bearing element.
- 20
24. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the shape of the windings on a transverse plane is orthogonal [and adjacent windings are so disposed, that the long dimension of each winding is normal to the long dimension of its adjacent windings,] so that the projection of the stirrup on the transverse plane is T shaped [like].
- 25
25. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup comprises a plurality of cages and whereby one of the [said] plurality of cages houses the other of the [set] plurality of cages.

26. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup is made of a continuous extruded steel rod.
27. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the stirrup[s] are made from composite material.
- 5 28. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the windings are disposed on substantially transverse planes and consecutive windings are joined by substantially longitudinal elements.
29. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the distance between consecutive windings is uniform.
- 10 30. Stirrup **according to claim 20**, whereby the distance between consecutive windings is variable.
31. A prefabricated load bearing element comprising a stirrup **in accordance with any of the claims 20 to 30**.
- 15 32. Method of reinforcing of shear wall elements using at least two of the stirrups of **any of the claims 20 to 30**.
33. Method of reinforcing a load bearing element comprising at least two sets of reinforcement rod elements, whereby the method includes the step of providing a spiral shaped stirrup made of a rod with a continuous cross-section and a plurality of consecutive windings, [which] whereby the windings form a plurality of cages **(5a, 5b)**, with each cage **(5a, 5b)** tightening a different set of reinforcement rod elements.
- 20
34. A load bearing element comprising at least two sets of reinforcement rod elements and a spiral shaped stirrup made of a rod with a continuous cross-section and a plurality of consecutive windings, [which] whereby the windings form a plurality of cages **(5a, 5b)**, with each cage **(5a, 5b)** tightening a different set of principal rod elements.
- 25

CLAIMS

35. Stirrup for reinforcing load bearing elements having main reinforcement rods, whereby the stirrup comprises a plurality of consecutive windings (7a, 7b) disposed along the longitudinal direction of the stirrup and is made of a rod with a continuous cross-section, so that the stirrup has a spiral form, and whereby the windings of the stirrup form a plurality of discrete cages (5a, 5b) for housing the main reinforcement rods (1a, 1b) of the load bearing element.
36. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the stirrup comprises two cages to house the main reinforcement rods of the load bearing element.
37. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the stirrup comprises at least four cages (5a, 5b, 5c, 5d) to house the main reinforcement rods of the load bearing element.
38. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the shape of the windings on a transverse plane is orthogonal so that the projection of the stirrup on the transverse plane is T shaped.
39. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the stirrup comprises a plurality of cages and whereby one of the plurality of cages houses the other of the plurality of cages.
40. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the stirrup is made of a continuous extruded steel rod.
41. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the stirrup are made from composite material.
42. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the windings are disposed on substantially transverse planes and consecutive windings are joined by substantially longitudinal elements.

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43. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the distance between consecutive windings is uniform.
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44. Stirrup according to claim 35, whereby the distance between consecutive windings is variable.
- 11
5 45. A prefabricated load bearing element comprising a stirrup in accordance with any of the claims 35 to 44.
- 12
46. Method of reinforcing of shear wall elements using at least two of the stirrups of any of the claims 35 to 44.
- 13
10 47. Method of reinforcing a load bearing element comprising at least two sets of reinforcement rod elements, whereby the method includes the step of providing a spiral shaped stirrup made of a rod with a continuous cross-section and a plurality of consecutive windings, whereby the windings form a plurality of cages (5a, 5b), with each cage (5a, 5b) tightening a different set of reinforcement rod elements.
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15 48. A load bearing element comprising at least two sets of reinforcement rod elements and a spiral shaped stirrup made of a rod with a continuous cross-section and a plurality of consecutive windings, whereby the windings form a plurality of cages (5a, 5b), with each cage (5a, 5b) tightening a different set of principal rod elements.